

Chairperson: Louis Fortis, 276-2222
Clerk: Carol Mueller, 278-4228
Research Analyst: Julie Esch 278-4430

Parks Advisory Commission
Wednesday, November 28, 2007 - 3:00 P.M.

Parks Administration Building
9480 Watertown Plank Road

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Gurda*, Henry Hamilton III, Daniel Steininger and Louis Fortis* (Chairperson)
Rafael Acevedo, Jr, F. William Haberman, Penelope Stewart*
Alternate: Nancy Delavantes

*Note: Chairman Fortis, Mr. Gurda and Ms. Stewart were not present at roll call but appeared prior to item three on the agenda.

Scheduled Items:

1. Call to Order

Mr. Steininger called the meeting to order at approximately 3:10 pm. A quorum was present.

A suggestion to move the meetings downtown was made due to the traffic situation and location of the majority of the members.

Mr. Haberman offered two places. One is the law office of Michael, Best and Friedrich located at 100 East Wisconsin Avenue and the other is the Herzfeld Foundation offices' located at 219 North Milwaukee Avenue. Parking is available at both locations via a parking structure. Mr. Hamilton suggested that other alternatives should also be considered.

2. Approval of minutes from October 24, 2007

The commission approved the minutes from the October 24, 2007 meeting with a verbal vote (4-0).

3. Guest speaker Jim Goulee, The Parks People

Appearances:

David Emanuelson, Ph. D., Assistant Professor, Aurora University
Jim Goulee, Executive Director, The Parks People

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Mr. Emanuelson gave a presentation to the members on "Are Parks Districts a Good Idea for Wisconsin" (copy attached to the original of these minutes).

Discussion of different types of special districts ensued. There are two distinct areas that need consideration when setting up districts. One is the funding, and the other is the type of governance. District boards are usually elected or appointed. They can be created by referendum or by a judge. Additionally, they have their own taxing and bonding authority. Most districts use property taxes for funding. Sales tax is another option for funding. On the initial setup, the assets and staff are transferred to the district.

According to the presentation, parks districts comparatively have less acres of land, fewer zoos and senior centers. On the other hand, park districts are more equitable in user services, recreation programs, facilities and autonomy. There is more employee job satisfaction. The parks districts tend to have more trained professionals in leadership.

Mr. Goulee discussed the bill by Senator Alberta Darling. This would provide for enabling legislation to allow park districts in Wisconsin. Eighty percent of the members in Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association endorse the current bill. At this time no action is being considered on the bill.

4. An informational report from County Board Staff on the Stadium sales tax

Due to time limitations, this item was laid over to the next meeting.

5. Ongoing discussion on options available to the Commission and the feasibility of them

The aforementioned topics in Item 3 are part of these discussions and are ongoing.

6. Future meeting dates and items for discussion

The next meeting of the commission will be on January 9, 2008 at 3 p.m. at the Herzfeld Foundation offices' located at 219 North Milwaukee Avenue, 7th Floor Milwaukee.

If you can't attend for any reason, please call me at the number above by noon on the day of the meeting.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Sue Black, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture

Mr. James Keegan, Parks, Chief of Planning, Policy and Partnerships

Mr. Josh Fudge, Parks, Budget Manager

Mr. Glenn Bultman, County Board Research Analyst

Mr. Daniel Diliberti, Milwaukee County Treasurer

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m.

Carol Mueller, Committee Clerk

ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 278-3932 (voice) or 278-3937 (TTY), upon receipt of this notice.